

Message Text

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ORIGIN OES-07

INFO OCT-01 ARA-10 EUR-12 ISO-00 L-03 SSO-00 INRE-00
EB-08 CA-01 SCS-06 H-01 INR-10 DLOS-09 CG-00
DOTE-00 SS-15 TRSE-00 COME-00 NSCE-00 CIAE-00
NSAE-00 DODE-00 /083 R

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O 010029Z JUL 78
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY BRASILIA IMMEDIATE
INFO AMCONSUL BELEM IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY MEXICO IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY PARIS IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 167481

MEXICO CITY FOR FISHERIES ATTACHE

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EFIS, CPRS, BR

SUBJECT: U.S. PROTEST RE JUNE 23 SHRIMP BOAT SEIZURES

REF: (A) STATE 164638, (B) BRASILIA 5007, (C) BRASILIA
5006, (D) BRASILIA 5003, (E) BRASILIA 5060

1. U.S. OWNERS OF SHRIMP VESSELS SEIZED JUNE 23 TODAY
PROVIDED DEPT. WITH ADDITIONAL INFO ON TIME AND POSITION
OF VESSELS APPREHENDED BY BRAZILIAN AUTHORITIES WHICH
CORROBORATES INFO BY GUYANA PILOT THAT THE VESSELS WERE
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CLEARLY IN FRENCH WATERS AT TIME OF ARREST (REFTEL (C)).
OWNERS FURTHER STATE THAT VESSELS WERE DRAGGING (I.E.,
FISHING WITH NETS IN WATER AND NOT ATTEMPTING TO EVADE
GOB PATROL BOAT) WHEN SEIZED.

2. ACCORDING TO OWNERS' REPORT THE SEVEN SEAS REPORTED
TO FLEET MANAGER OF SAHLMAN SEAFOODS, CAYENNE, BY RADIO

AT 10:30 A.M. LOCAL TIME THAT IT WAS BEING SEIZED BY
GOB AUTHORITIES AND THAT CAYENNE LAURA AND ANITA KAY
HAD BEEN SEIZED BY GOB TWO HOURS EARLIER IN THE SAME
VICINITY. THE OWNERS STATE THAT THE VESSELS NAVIGATE
BY LAND SIGHTINGS; THEY DID NOT PROVIDE COORDINATES
FOR THE VESSELS' POSITIONS AT THE TIME OF SEIZURE, BUT

STATED ACCORDING TO THE CREWS' REPORTS THE VESSELS WERE
FISHING TOGETHER IN FRENCH WATERS NEAR THE VICINITY OF
CONNETABLE ROCK WHEN APPREHENDED. THE CREWS REPORT
THAT THEIR GEAR WAS IN THE WATER AND THAT VESSELS WERE
NOT ATTEMPTING TO EVADE GOB PATROL VESSEL WHEN APPRE-
HENDED.

3. UPON RECEIVING RADIO REPORT FROM SEVEN SEAS, MR.
BILL CHARON, FLEET MANAGER FOR SAHLMAN SEAFOODS (U.S.)
IN CAYENNE AND MR. PAUL MAGAN, PRESIDENT AND GENERAL
MANAGER OF PEDIG PACKING PLANT, CAYENNE (FRENCH),
CHARTERED PLANE FROM GUYANA AIR TRANSPORT CO. TO
OBSERVE SITUATION. IN ADDITION TO PILOTS' SIGHTINGS
(REF (C)), CHARON AND MAGAN REPORTED TO U.S. OWNERS
THAT THEY SAW THE CAYENNE LAURA, ANITA KAY AND SEVEN
SEAS FOLLOWING A GOB PATROL VESSEL EN ROUTE TO BRAZIL
AT POSITION 4 DEGREES 53 MINUTES NORTH BY 51 DEGREES
35 MINUTES WEST AT APPROXIMATELY 11:45 A.M. LOCAL
TIME.

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4. IN VIEW OF DIFFICULTIES IN OBTAINING NEW U.S.-BRAZIL
AGREEMENT ON SHRIMP TO ALLOW ACCESS BY U.S. VESSELS TO
BRAZILIAN SHRIMPING GROUNDS AFTER EXPIRATION OF THE PREVI-
OUS AGREEMENT IN DEC. 1977, DEPT. HAS RECEIVED REQUEST FROM
CHAIRMAN OF HOUSE SUBCOMMITTEE ON FISHERIES AND WILD-
LIFE CONSERVATION AND THE ENVIRONMENT TO PLACE EMBARGO
ON IMPORTATION INTO THE U.S. OF ALL SHRIMP AND SHRIMP
PRODUCTS FROM BRAZIL. U.S. OWNERS OF SHRIMP BOATS
OPERATING IN THE GUIANAS ARE URGING CONGRESS AND DEPT.
TO SUPPORT EMBARGO PROPOSAL AND TO TAKE ACTION AUTHOR-
IZED UNDER SECTION 205 OF FISHERY CONSERVATION AND
MANAGEMENT ACT OF 1976 (SEE REFTEL (E)). SOME U.S.
INTERESTS ARE PROPOSING AN EMBARGO ON ALL RPT ALL
GOB FISHERY EXPORTS TO U.S.

5. IN VIEW OF INFO SUPPLIED BY U.S. SHRIMP
VESSEL OWNERS RE RECENT SEIZURES, STEPPED UP FISHERY
PATROL ACTIVITIES BY GOB, CONGRESSIONAL AND INDUSTRY
PRESSURE FOR EMBARGO ACTION AND DETERIORATING
CLIMATE TO RENEW A REASONABLE FISHERIES RELATION-
SHIP WITH BRAZIL, DEPT. PROPOSES FOLLOWING ACTION

PENDING CONCURRENCE OF EMBASSY: 1) SUBMIT FORMAL U.S. PROTEST TO GOB FOR FISHERY ENFORCEMENT ACTIVITIES AGAINST U.S. VESSELS IN FRENCH WATERS REQUESTING IMMEDIATE RELEASE OF VESSELS, EQUIPMENT AND CATCH, 2) VISIT TO BRAZIL BY U.S. MID-LEVEL TEAM IN EARLY JULY TO DISCUSS POSSIBILITIES OF IMPROVING US-GOB FISHERY RELATIONS, INCLUDING POSSIBILITY OF LATER NEGOTIATION OF

A MUTUALLY SATISFACTORY FISHERIES AGREEMENT IN ORDER TO LESSEN U.S. DOMESTIC PRESSURES TO INVOKE AN EMBARGO AGAINST GOB SHRIMP AND POSSIBLY OTHER FISH EXPORTS TO THE U.S. DESPITE GOB OFT-REPEATED INTENTIONS WITH REGARD TO REGULATION OF ACCESS TO ITS SHRIMPING GROUNDS, AGAIN ARTICULATED LAST WEEK BY SILVEIRA IN BILATERAL WITH

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SECRETARY VANCE, THE DEPARTMENT BELIEVES THAT THERE MAY BE SOME VALUE IN CONTINUING MID-LEVEL DISCUSSIONS TO FIND COMMON GROUND FOR SOLUTION.

6. DEPT. WOULD APPRECIATE EMBASSY'S VIEWS ON ABOVE APPROACH ASAP. DEPT. WOULD ALSO APPRECIATE EMBASSY VIEW AS TO POSSIBILITY THAT JAPANESE WOULD JOIN IN PROTEST, IN LIGHT OF REF. F.

VANCE

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